

## **Minutes of The Heritage Committee**

**November 20, 2012 – Town Hall – 7 p.m.**

Vice Chairman Jack Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **Discussion of the Public Forum, Redevelopment of Ffyer Place**

Some members of the Committee had attended the Public Forum, Redevelopment of Ffyer Place. They discussed what it takes to be successful in a new commercial venture in Suffield. Buildings in a new project must be compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods, i.e. the Bridge Street School proposal was a massive brick building. Did it fit? When Suffield residents want to downsize, most people reduce to a much smaller space. Maybe Suffield residents do not want to downsize to too small a new living space. Perhaps the new Bissell Inn room plans were too small? New projects must fit with in the Suffield image. What will be essential for a Ffyer Place proposal to be successful? The removal of the sand/salt storage building or a removal of the Highway Garage seems to be an important issue.

The Heritage Committee believes this project should take a slow pace and the Heritage Committee should take part in the redevelopment as the Heritage Committee was instrumental in establishing the Town Village Center District. The Committee felt that the Public Forum was a good idea and that the presentations were excellent.

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes of the October 16, 2012 meeting – The minutes were accepted and approved as printed and distributed.

Farm Preservation/Open Space subcommittee - Mr. Ray Wilcox reported that the Town Meeting had approved the purchase of the development rights of approximately 60 acres of the Bielonko Farm which does have frontage on Route 159. After this purchase of development rights for farmland preservation, there is approximately \$140,000 remaining in the Open Space fund. This Open Space line item was not funded in the current budget. This remaining money will not be sufficient for an additional purchase. Members of the HC strongly support funding for Open Space to be used for the purchase of development rights and will make this known to the Board of Finance during the upcoming budget process.

Zoning and Planning Commission update – Mr. Chet Kuras reported that the Zoning and Planning Commission at its November 19 meeting denied, a proposed text amendment proposed by K. Brother, LLC (filling station located at 1524 Mapleton Avenue) to add to the existing text of Sect. IV.L, i.e. drive-thru facilities associated with any use other than a bank and pharmacy, the addition “and petroleum filling station.”

Mr. Quinn reported that hard copies of both reports from Camoin Associates which were reviewed at the Public Forum will be available for the HC members at the December 18 Heritage Committee meeting and discussion of such documents will be placed on the Agenda of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8: 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie C. Kling, Secretary

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